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22 June 1962

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [ ] O/DDI  
25X1 FROM : [ ] Chairman of the Ad Hoc  
Working Group on the Arab-Israeli Situation  
SUBJECT : Comments on the Proposed Disestablishment  
of the Ad Hoc Group

Herewith are reactions to the proposed disestablishment as we have garnered them from various agency representatives, together with a comment of our own.

1. State Department's working representatives on the Group have strongly recommended to their chiefs that a report of this type be continued. They feel they cannot obtain from despatches or cables satisfactory figures on military hardware or current capabilities, especially on a comparative basis. They feel the reports are used extensively by the State people engaged in the Arab-Israeli problem.

2. The Navy working representative has recommended to his chief that the report be continued. Navy increased its distribution of the report with the last issue.

3. Army's representatives have made a report to their chiefs that the Group's product is most valuable and should be continued in some form. They send it to attachés throughout the area, making more use of it (80 out of a total 250 odd copies) than does any other agency.

4. Air Force representatives have not been available for comment, but General Breitweiser presumably still favors, as he did three years ago, abolition of the Group. The Air Force representative on the Group has been particularly sensitive over the possibility that estimative political statements might

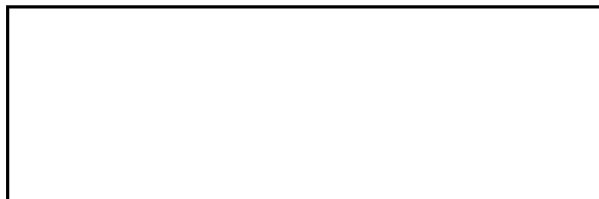
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creep into the report. We feel, however, that the ONE participants in the Group have guarded successfully against this danger.

25X1 5. DIA and JCS representatives feel that the Group's report will still have to be prepared in one way or another. [redacted] has thought that perhaps DIA could set up a working group under USIB to produce the report if the present Group were abolished.

6. NSA's representative thinks the report is needed; it is used by NSA and he has recommended to the head of his agency that the Group not be disestablished.

7. As for our own view, we feel that this is a relatively inexpensive operation in terms of time and personnel--it requires no special staff and is mounted only when one or another of the agencies thinks it is needed--and that a rack-up of the kind the Group produces will be needed from time to time in any event. If the present Ad Hoc Group were not in existence as a mechanism for bringing people together to resolve differences and clarify understanding, some other mechanism would have to be created. One would think that the military aspects of the Group's report could be handled entirely within the Pentagon, but State insists that it has an interest even in these, and CIA would have to be involved because questions inevitably arise regarding deliveries of Soviet materiel to the Near East.



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